

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00170 061615Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

/052 W

----- 026074

R 061555Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 669

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: NORBERT RODRIGUE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CNTU

REF: QUEBEC 159, MONTREAL 811

1. THE CONFEDERATION OF NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS (CNTU) ENDED ITS WEEK-LONG BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN QUEBEC CITY JULY 3 BY ELECTING NORBERT RODRIGUE AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT. RODRIGUE DEFEATED MICHEL CHARTRAND, PRESIDENT OF THE CNTU'S MONTREAL CENTRAL COUNCIL, BY RELATIVELY LARGE MARGIN OF 626 TO 255. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF UNION CENTRAL SINCE 1972, RODRIGUE WAS CHOSEN TO REPLACE MARCEL PEPIN WHO RESIGNED POST AFTER 11 YEARS. ALTHOUGH NO LONGER AT HEAD OF CNTU, PEPIN WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE UNION AFFAIRS FROM HIS SEAT AT THE NEWLY-CREATED POST OF "SPECIAL ADVISOR" TO THE CNTU EXECUTIVE.

2. RODRIGUE AT 35 IS YOUNGEST CNTU PRESIDENT AND FIRST SINCE 1924 TO HAVE RISEN FROM RANK AND FILE. HE BEGAN UNION CAREER AT AGE 25 AS UNION ADVISOR AT A MONTREAL HOSPITAL, LATER BECAME PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS WORKERS - CNTU S MOST POWERFUL SINGLE AFFILIATE - A POSITION HE HELD UNTIL BECOMING PEPIN S RIGHT-HAND MAN IN 1972. RODRIGUE QUIETLY CAMPAIGNED FOR CNTU PRESIDENCY ON A PLATFORM OF REUNIFICATION AND COHESION WITHIN THE UNION CENTRAL. IN CONTRAST TO HIS LOUD AND COLORFUL OPPONENT CHARTRAND, WHO WAS READY TO SACRIFICE MEMBERS IN ORDER TO PURSUE MORE MILITANT ACTION ORIENTED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00170 061615Z

GOALS, RODRIGUE ADVOCATED INCREASING MEMBERSHIP AND REINSTATEMENT

OF LOCALS WHO HAVE DEFECTED OR BEEN SUSPENDED FROM THE CENTRAL. TRUE TO ITS NEW PRESIDENT, THE CNTU CONVENTION WAS CENTERED ON UNITY AND COHESION. OTHER PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS AGREED UPON DURING THE WEEK-LONG DEBATE WERE A LARGER DECENTRALIZATION OF POWERS, REFUSAL TO ENGAGE IN ELECTORAL POLITICS, MOBILIZATION OF MEMBERS, AND RAPPROCHEMENT WITH QUEBEC'S OTHER UNION CENTRALS. RODRIGUE HAS ALREADY STATED HIS INTENTION TO WORK TOWARDS EVENTUAL UNION WITH THE QUEBEC TEACHERS CORPORATION (CEQ), THE PROVINCE'S THIRD LARGEST UNION CENTRAL.

3. RODRIGUE'S EXECUTIVE WILL INCLUDE FRANCINE LALONDE AS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - THE HIGHEST CNTU OFFICE EVER HELD BY A WOMAN, INCUMBENT CLAUDE GIRARD AS SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL ACTION SECRETARIAT ANDRE L'HEUREUX AS THIRD VICE PRESIDENT. L'HEUREUX DEFEATED MICHEL BOURBON, HEAD OF CNTU'S CONSTRUCTION WING. IN ADDITION, JEAN THIBAUT WAS ACCLAIMED TO A SECOND TERM AS SECRETARY-GENERAL.

4. COMMENT: RODRIGUE'S ELECTION WAS EXPECTED BY MAJORITY OF UNION OBSERVERS AND DELEGATES AT CONVENTION - ALBEIT NOT BY RELATIVELY LARGE MARGIN OF 400 VOTES. TONE OF CONVENTION WAS ONE OF UNITY AND OF RETURN OF FOCUS OF UNION ACTIVITY TO WORKPLACE AND AWAY FROM POLITICAL ACTION. RODRIGUE NOW LEFT WITH TASK OF SETTING COURSE IN ACCORD WITH WISHES OF MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, THUS CLOSING GAP BETWEEN UNION EXECUTIVE AND MORE CONSERVATIVE RANK AND FILE. IN ADDITION, HE MUST SHOW THAT HE IS NOT WORKING FROM UNDER SHADOW OF MARCEL PEPIN, WHO MANY BELIEVE WILL STILL ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE UNION AFFAIRS AS CNTU "SPECIAL ADVISOR." FURTHER COMMENT WILL FOLLOW IN FORTHCOMING AIRGRAM ON CONVENTION.

MCANAMARA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, LABOR UNIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUEBEC00170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760260-0450
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760787/aaaaczcm.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 QUEBEC 159, 76 MONTREAL 811
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORBERT RODRIGUE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CNTU
TAGS: ELAB, CA, CNTU, CONFEDERATION NAT TRADE UNION, (RODRIGUE, NORBERT)
To: STATE OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006